(c) what are the details regarding the manner in which the autonomous colleges will function and their relationship with the Universities concerned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) Yes, Sir. The National Policy on Education-1986 envisages the development of autonomous colleges in large numbers. In pursuance of this, the University Grants Commission has formulated detailed guidelines for conferring autonomous status on selected colleges.

(b) The objective of the Scheme of autonomous colleges is decentralisation of academic administration, promotion of creatively and higher standards. The criteria suggested in the guidelines for identification of colleges are academic reputation and previous performance in university examination academic/co-curricular activities; academic attainments of the faculty; made of selection of teachers and students; physical facilities; institutional management; financial resources; etc.

(c) Autonomous collegs will have the freedom to undertake innovations, design their own courses of study, frame curricula and methods of teaching, and conduct their own examinations. Each autonomous college will have its own Governing Body, Academic Council, Boards of Studies and other Committees to advise it on academic as well as management matters. The autonomous status will be conferred on a College by the University to which it is affiliated. The University will also award the degrees to the students.

1706. [*Transferred to the 19th March*, 1987].

Improvement in Telegraph System

1707. SHRI PARAVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to improve the telegraph system in the country to ensure that all the telegrams are delivered within 12 hours anywhere within the country; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the estimated expenditure involved in overhauling the whole system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes, Sir. A three year Action Plan has been launched in November 1985 in order to ensure delivery of 98 per cent of telegrams within 12 hours and 100 per cent within 24 hours between towns having CTos/DTos.

(b) The Action Plan envisages modernisation of telegraph network by installing Store and Forward Message Switching Systems, and providing terminal devices like Electronic teleprinters and Electronic key boards at an estimated cost of about Rs. 65 crores.

New Subjects for Schools Children

1708. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce new subjects for the school children from the next academic year in pursuance of the National Education Policy;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether Government propose to reduce the number of the existing text books to make the learning of the new subjects feasible to achieve the objective envisaged therein;

(d) if so what are the details thereof; and

(e) if the answer to part (c) above be in the negative, what are the reasons thereof stating how Government propose to consider it possible to achieve the objective with the school children already overburdened with too many text books?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI):

(a) and (b) School education is looked after primarily by the State Governments concerned. Syllabi an text books are also laid down by the State Governments/ State Agencies. At the national level the Ministry and the NCERT provide the guidance and oversee the implementation of the National Education Policy. At the national level there is no proposal to introduce new subjects for the school children. A new course 'Contemporary India' is being designed by the NCERT which will contain elements from different subjects areas designed in a way to promote ideas such as India's common cultural heritage, egalitarianism, democracy and secularism, equality of the sexes, protection of the environment, removal of social barriers, observance of the small family norm and inculcation of the scientific temper.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) while introducing this course, it will be ensured that the depth and coverage of information is kept at appropriate level so that it does not increase the total information load on the child in different subject areas.

Payment to railway pensioners by post offices

1709. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

a) whether it is a fact that person is paid to the railway man by the post offices;

(b) if so, what is the total number of such pensioners in the country; statewise;

(c) what is the total amount of pensions paid in one year;

(d) whether there is any amount outstanding against the railways on this account; and

(e) what are the corresponding figures during the years 1985-86 and the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Total number of Railway pensioners who are paid through Post Offices was 1,07,151 as on 01-04-1986. Statewise break-up of this number is however not maintained.

(c) The total amount of pension paid to Railway pensioners in 1985-86 was Rs. 43,61,64,578.69.

(d) The amount outstanding against the Railways as on 30-9-86 for which the claim is yet to be preferred was Rs. 6,25,65,619.17.

(e) Amount of pensions paid:

1985-86: Rs. 43,61,64,578.69

1986-87: Rs. 21,49,33,441.66

(up to 30-9-86)

Amount outstanding as on 30-9-86

1985-86: Rs. 1,46,31,675.20

1986-87: Rs. 1,97,56,752.67

(up to 30-9-86)

The remaining amount of outstanding of Rs. 2,81,77,191.30 pertains to the pension paid in previous years.